

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Gerald Götting made the following remarks in a discussion held at East CDU headquarters on 2 March 1950. The situation of the CDU in the East Zone can now be viewed with more optimism. Everywhere the party has regained control and is handling its affairs without assistance. The only exception is the province of Brandenburg where the situation is still in flux. As a result of the purge, 8 Kreis chairmen were removed from office in Saxony-Anhalt, namely those of Bitterfeld, Blankenburg, Halle, Quedlinburg, Wanzleben, Wernigerode, Wolmirstedt, and Zerbst.

Loss of membership has not yet occurred. There were a number of resignations, but there were also a number of new applications for membership, so that the strength of the party remains about the same.*

Götting declared that the negative attitude of CDU women towards the Democratic Women's Union is no longer acceptable. They must be urged to join. Götting announced that in the future the Policy Committee of the party would meet every Tuesday. The first meeting would be in Leipzig on 7 March 1950, the occasion being the opening of the Leipzig fair.

2. On 3 March 1950, there was a meeting for women of the East CDU at party headquarters, at which Secretary General Götting made the opening remarks, urging the women to join the Democratic Women's League (DFD). The participants were opposed to this new course of action, but for understandable reasons they could not express themselves on the subject.

The main address was delivered by Minister Steidle, who emphasized welfare in Russia and characterized Russia as the most progressive country in the world with respect to women's rights. He promised to attend to the introduction of nurseries on factory premises after the Soviet model so that working women need have no concern about the well-being of their children. Steidle demanded a more thorough industrialization

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of Eastern Germany since only in that way could damage be inflicted on the West. If East German industry were expanded, unemployment would continue to rise in the West in such a way that the West would soon be forced to capitulate to the East.

Steidle's remarks were received without applause. In later discussion, Götting spoke again, saying that the West must accept the progressive reforms in the East if Germany is reunited. He further stated that the Soviet Union need no longer take world opinion into consideration in the formation of her policy since she is strong enough to get what she wants, as proved by her successes in China.

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Comment: It is supposed that the new applications were stimulated by RIAS propaganda which has called upon people to hold out now as never before, and by the fact that people say there must be something in the party if it is so violently persecuted. In addition, a large number of the civil servants who are now being forced to join a political party wish to choose the least of the evils by going into the CDU, since they believe that this will not be held quite so much against them at a later date.

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